

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of August 8, 2005. Claims 1-26 are pending in the present Application. Applicant has amended claims 1-5, 9, 10, 15, 18-22, and 26. Consequently, claims 1-26 remain pending in the present Application.

Applicant has amended claims 1-5, 9, 15, 18-22, and 26 to remove alphanumeric designations for steps or instructions and to correct minor errors. Applicant has also amended claims 1, 10, and 18 to more clearly recite that the asymmetric address translation includes providing a symmetric key for indexing a table and that the symmetric key is symmetric with respect to bi-directional traffic. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification, page 14, lines 17-18. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,888,837 (Cunningham) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0065817 (Benchetrit). With respect to claims 4, 10, 15, 21, and 26, the Examiner cited Cunningham, col. 2, lines 18-40, Figures 2A-2C with respect to the use of the symmetric key.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Independent claims 1, 10, and 18 recite a method, system and computer-readable medium for performing network address translations. As recited in claims 1, 10, and 18, the source information and destination information are asymmetrically translated using an address translation table or session table based on a direction the packet is traveling. Claims 1, 10 and 18 also recite that the asymmetric translating includes "providing a symmetric key for indexing a session table, the symmetric key being symmetric for bi-directional traffic."

Cunningham describes a technique for translating addresses between overlapping local addresses and unique global addresses. Cunningham, Abstract. In order to do so, Cunningham maintains a table based on source information and a separate table based upon destination information. Cunningham, Figures 2A-2D. Thus, Cunningham describes locating source translation entries and destination translation entries, then translating these entries to unique global addresses. Cunningham, col. 2, lines 20-40. However, Applicant can find no mention in Cunningham of using a key that is symmetric for bi-directional (for example inbound and outbound) traffic and that is used to index a session table.

Benchetrit fails to remedy the defects of Cunningham. Although Benchetrit describes the use of a session table, Benchetrit apparently treats packets in the session table asymmetrically. In particular, a symmetric key is not used to index the session table. Instead, for an outbound packet, Benchetrit determines if the packet is in “an existing session by checking if the private-network-address and private-TU-port-number are present in columns 82 and 84.” Benchetrit, paragraph 84. For an inbound packet, the packet is parsed to determine “if the packet belongs to a known session, i.e., has an extended-public-address in table 80. . . Process 100 then continues to a step 109, wherein the extended-public-address found in step 108 is used as a pointer to table 80, so as to generate the corresponding extended-private-address.” Benchetrit, paragraph 85. Thus, although Benchetrit utilizes a session table, Benchetrit utilizes different information for packets traveling in different directions to access the session table. Consequently, Benchetrit apparently does not utilize a symmetric key for indexing the session table. Thus, any combination of Cunningham and Benchetrit would also fail to teach or suggest such a feature. Stated differently, if the teachings of Benchetrit were added to those of Cunningham, the combination might utilize a session table to track sessions, as well as translate between overlapping local and unique global

addresses. However, the combination would not asymmetrical translate source and destination information such that the recited symmetric session key is provided. Consequently, Cunningham in view of Benchetrit fail to teach or suggest the method, system, and computer-readable medium recited in independent claims 1, 10, and 18. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 10, and 18 are allowable over the cited references.

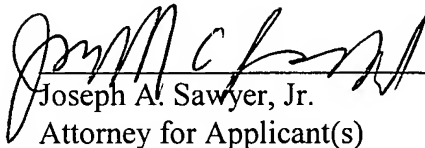
Claims 2-9, 11-17, and 19-26 depend upon independent claims 1, 10, and 18, respectively. Consequently, the arguments herein apply with full force to claims 1, 10, and 18. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-9, 11-17, and 19-26 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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